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Aliza Foat

#30/7
NB
07/20/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Hendrik Louis Bijl *et al.*

Serial No.: 08/821,025

Filing Date: March 18, 1997

For: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION
OF A GRANULAR MICROBIAL
BIOMASS AND ISOLATION OF A
COMPOUND THEREFROM

Examiner: I. Marx

Group Art Unit: 1651

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box CPA
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper is filed with a continued prosecution application (CPA) pursuant to a Notice of Appeal dated 8 January 2001. A five-month extension of time is enclosed, which extends the deadline for filing this paper until 8 August 2001. Claims 27-31, 33, and 41-53 were rejected in a Final Office Action mailed 6 July 2000, and an Advisory Action was mailed on 23 January 2001 in connection with a Response to the Final Office Action filed 8 January 2001. Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for rejection and the following remarks are offered in response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Enclosed is the following Exhibit A:

Exhibit A: Marked-up Version of Amendments to the Claims.